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NONFERROUS METAL PRODUCTION CONTINUES TO EXPAND;  
WOLFRAM PRODUCTION REACHES NEW HIGH

The Nonferrous Metals Control Bureau continues to expand production and control programs. Mines in Hunan and Kiangsi stress higher production and exceed quotas. The Kiangsi mines have exceeded their third quarter wolfram production quotas.

HUNAN MINES EXCEED HALF-YEAR QUOTA -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 8 Oct 50

Nonferrous mines in Hunan Province have exceeded their wolfram, antimony, and manganese production quotas for the first half of 1950. However, improvements are still needed in construction, production control, safety, and health programs.

Following the liberation, the owners of the Yuan-ling and Heng-shan mines voluntarily turned over the mining rights to the Hunan Branch, NMCB (Nonferrous Metals Control Bureau). The production of wolfram ore by the Heng-shan Engineering Office in June was 50 percent higher than in March. During the month of May, the Yuan-ling Engineering Office showed a production increase of 100 percent.

Following the liberation, a number of antimony mines and refineries began operations, or increased the number of miners. The antimony production quotas for the first half of 1950 were exceeded by 11.9 percent.

Prior to the liberation, manganese extraction was at a standstill, except at a few private commercial locations where small quantities of loose manganese ore were being extracted. The mines were taken over by the Hunan Branch, NMCB, after liberation and began operating in April 1950. By June, they had exceeded their quotas by 19.5 percent.

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The mines are preparing to open new shafts and to improve their present mine structures. Controls are being strengthened to eradicate the remaining traces of avarice and oppression. Safety measures are being improved to combat the toll of illness which is especially high in the tin mines.

KIANGSI WOLFRAM MINES SET 10-YEAR RECORD -- Peiping, Kuang-ming Jih-pao, 23 Oct 50

Nan-ch'ang -- There are 148 wolfram mines within the borders of 19 hsien in the southern part of Kiangsi. In September 1949, the Kiangsi People's government assumed full control of the former Kiangsi Wolfram and Tin-Mining Corporation, Limited, and its subsidiaries, which included five engineering offices, three control bureaus, and 12 units comprising mines, tin refineries, and repair shops. Large-scale production was begun after the first conference on wolfram and tin production had convened in October 1949.

By January 1950, production had recovered to 61.4 percent of the level of January 1949 and miners numbered 18,313 or 66.3 percent of the figure for January 1949. Data for June 1950 list 23,578 miners. Production quotas for the whole of 1950 were set at 47.47 percent above the average for 1946-48. Production has reached 97.97 percent of the 1948 level (the highest since the Sino-Japanese War). During the first and second quarters of 1950, production of wolfram ore was 99 percent /of the quota/; tin ore, 4 percent in excess; and bismuth ore, 8 percent in excess. In June, production of wolfram ore exceeded the quota by 26 percent; tin ore, by 96 percent. This set a 10-year record in Kiangsi wolfram production.

In May, June, and July of 1946, wolfram ore was priced at 606,000 KMT yuan per ton, or the equivalent, at that time, of only 14-16 piculs (shih) of second-grade polished rice. During the period from 1946 until the liberation, the KMT plundered 17,232 tons of wolfram ore from Kiangsi, at a price only one tenth of the export market rate, thus bringing some 140 million silver yuan into reactionary hands.

The price of wolfram ore has risen. Today, great truckloads of food, cloth, materials, and everyday commodities move into the mining areas, to support the higher living standards. From the time of recovery in 1949 until January 1950, the following shipments have come into the various mining areas: 707,000 catties of unpolished rice; 1,196,000 catties of polished rice; 285,000 ch'ih /one ch'ih equals 14.1 inches/ of various types of cloth; and large amounts of oil, salt, nitrate of wolfram /sic/, steel rods, and iron files /of filings/.

Improved conditions have attracted an increasing number of workmen to the mining area. In the Lung-nan mine district, the number of workmen in June 1950 was only 500 or so; this number rose to above 1,000 in July and August, and above 1,500 in September. In addition, the total amount of ore which was purchased from persons engaged in private, individual exploitation in the Lung-nan district brought the total production to 115 percent of the general quota.

KIANGSI WOLFRAM MINES EXCEED THIRD-QUARTER QUOTAS -- Hankow, Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao, 29 Oct 50

The Kiangsi Branch, Central and South China NMCB, has exceeded its wolfram production quotas for the third quarter. July production was calculated at 125 percent of the original goal; August, 122 percent; and September, 132 percent, setting the highest record for any month since 1946. As a result, the 1950 quota for exchange of commodities might be completed ahead of schedule in October.

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The NMCB achieved this success through a policy of "stressing Min-lung" [presumably People's Mines]. In June, the Kiangsi Branch organized a number of shock workers and sent them to various mining areas to organize and strengthen the Min-lung leadership. Each mining district is organized into a production tsung-tui (the tsung-tui commander being sent from the Control Committee), which consists of four production battalions (the Min-lung Control Officer serving concurrently as battalion commander) made up of companies, platoons, squads, etc. In addition, a production control committee is established as the highest production control organ.

The Kiangsi Branch plans to increase the scope of the program and the number of Min-lung control personnel. About 60 superior miners have already been trained and sent to various areas to assume their duties. At each major mine location, a Min-lung Control Director or a Min-lung Control Group has been established to strengthen the leadership organization.

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